

April 5, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
Washington, DC

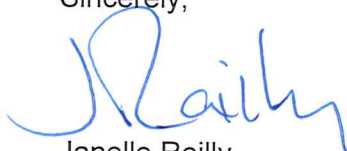
Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of CHI Memorial Health Care System, I am writing to communicate my support for the City of Chattanooga as they pursue a grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. The City is pursuing this grant to replace the 70-year old Wilcox Boulevard Bridge over the DeButts Railyard, owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway, and over additional tracks operated by CSX Railway. The existing structure can no longer support freight trucks or emergency vehicles, does not offer a safe passageway for pedestrians or bicyclists to cross this large rail facility, and continues to rapidly deteriorate.

A replacement structure is vital to the community and to the transportation network at this location. Wilcox Boulevard is a major thoroughfare that not only provides quick access between downtown Chattanooga and its airport. It also serves as the main connector between our two hospital campuses. Losing use of the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge would greatly impact the ability to efficiently transfer patients across the city.

Thank you for considering this project by the City for a RAISE grant, and I look forward to one-day seeing a new structure with multimodal facilities at this location become a reality.

Sincerely,



Janelle Reilly  
Market CEO  
CHI Memorial